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Self-loading air bearing slider.

A self-loading air bearing slider comprises: a body having a leading edge (12) and a trailing edge; a pair of spaced-apart side rails (16,18) disposed along the side edges of a surface of the body; and a cross rail (20) disposed laterally across the surface of the body joining the side rails. The side rails define a recessed section (22) trailing the cross rail (20), the recessed section being closed on three sides by the rails (16,18,20). Vents (38) are disposed at the trailing edge of the side rails (16,18) allowing the recessed section (22) to communicate with ambient gas pressure. The arrangement is such that, in operation, a negative pressure region is established at the recessed section, while positive pressure regions are established at the side rails (16,18) whereby the slider can fly in close proximity to a confronting planar surface at a substantially constant flying height.

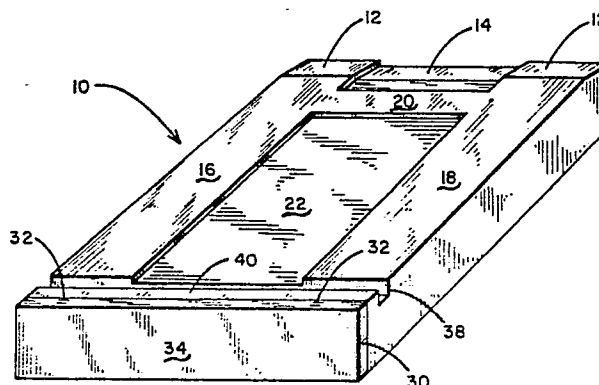


Fig. 2



EP 87 30 9130

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.3)
P,X	US-A-4 644 641 (M.A. VERDONE) * figures 4, 5, 7, 8; column 6, line 38-52; column 6, lines 3-7 *	1,5-8, 11	G 11 B 5/60
Y	US-A-3 855 625 (M.F. GARNIER et al.) * figure 1; column 2, lines 42-56; column 4, lines 25-34; column 1, line 63 - column 2, line 9; column 3, lines 36-43 *	1-6,9, 11	
Y	EP-A-0 071 249 (TOKYO SHIBAURA DENKI K.K.) * abstract; page 4, lines 9-17; page 4, line 36 - page 7, line 10 *	1-6,9, 11	
Y	EP-A-0 107 411 (TOKYO SHIBAURA DENKI K.K.) * abstract; figures 9a, 11c, 13a; page 10, lines 4-7 *	3	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN volume 9, no. 259 (P-397)(1982), 17th October 1985; & JP - A - 60 199 073 (FUJITSU K.K.) 14-06-1985 * complete document *	1	<div>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.3)</div> <div>G 11 B 5/00 G 11 B 17/00 G 11 B 21/00</div>
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 14-11-1988	Examiner CHAUMERON B.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div> <div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			